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COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Changes Observed in the Behavior of the Tallinn Military Garrison

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1. "It has been observed over the last two years prior to March 54 that the officers of the Soviet armed forces in Tallinn have become more and more isolated from the ranks and the NCO's as well as from the civilian population.
2. "The officers have their own shops (Voientorg) where they and the members of their families can buy better-quality goods at cheap regulated prices. The ranks, the non-commissioned officers and civilians are forbidden even to enter a Voientorg. The officers and their families also have their own 'closed canteens', to which no other persons are admitted. The officers also get the best lodgings.
3. "The officers are forbidden to shake hands with the privates and sergeants. They are forbidden to show towards them 'lenience', 'liberalism' or any familiarity (panibratavlo). To avoid this the officers are strictly forbidden to sit at the same table with privates and sergeants in cafes and restaurants.
4. "Towards the civilians the officers try on every occasion to show that as officers of the Soviet armed forces they have special rights and must take the first place everywhere.
5. "The soldiers and sailors of the Tallinn garrison have practically disappeared from the streets of Tallinn in the last three months. Their life is now so strictly regulated that they have almost no free time at all. After 10 p.m. no soldier or sailor may be outside the barracks area. From 10 p.m. on the town is patrolled by 'patrols of the commandant', who check the identity papers of every soldier, sailor or sergeant who happens to walk in the streets. Soldiers are no longer given leave to go to town alone, they must always go in groups. They may not visit their acquaintances in town or go to civilian cinemas, theatres or cafes without the permission of their superiors. The soldiers are also strictly forbidden to change into

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civilian clothes. On return to the barracks every soldier must report to his immediate superior where he has been, whom he has met and what he discussed with that person or persons."

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